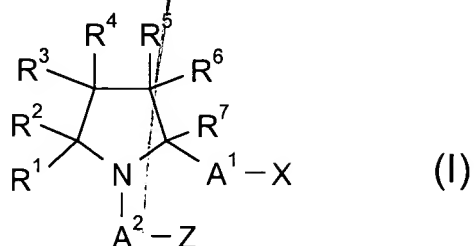


## Claims

### 1. Compounds of general formula (I)



wherein

$R^1$  to  $R^7$  are independently selected from H, optionally substituted  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl,  $C_{2-6}$  alkenyl and  $C_{2-6}$  alkynyl, optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl, OH, halogen, CN,  $OR^{12}$ ,  $SR^{12}$ ,  $COR^{12}$ ,  $COOR^{12}$ ,  $SOR^{12}$ ,  $SO_2R^{12}$ ,  $NR^{13}R^{14}$ ,  $CONR^{13}R^{14}$ ,  $SO_2NR^{13}R^{14}$ , where  $R^{13}$  and  $R^{14}$  are independently selected from H and  $C_{1-3}$  alkyl and  $R^{12}$  represents  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl; two of  $R^1$  to  $R^7$  each may be combined to form a 3- to 6-membered ring system, which ring system may contain one or more heteroatoms;  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  and/or  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  and/or  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  may be replaced by an optionally substituted alkylidene group or =O; and two of  $R^1$  to  $R^7$  which are positioned at adjacent carbon atoms may each be replaced by a C-C bond;

$A^1$  represents  $(-CR^8R^9)_n$ , optionally substituted  $C_{3-6}$  cycloalkylene or a combination of these groups,  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  being independently selected from H,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl, halogen, OH,  $OR^{12}$  and  $NR^{13}R^{14}$  and where for  $n \geq 2$   $R^8$  and  $R^9$  may be different in each group and two groups selected from  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  at adjacent C atoms may be replaced by a C-C bond, and a group -O- or -CO- may be positioned between two adjacent groups  $CR^8R^9$ ; and wherein one of  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  may be combined with one of  $R^1$  to  $R^7$  to form a 5- to 7-membered ring structure; and  $n = 0, 1, 2, 3$  or 4;

X is COOM or a group which can be converted into COOM under physiological conditions, M representing H or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation;

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A<sup>2</sup> is  $(-CR^{10}R^{11}-)_m$ , where R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> are independently selected from H, C<sub>1-2</sub> alkyl and halogen; where for m ≥ 2 the groups R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> may be different in each group, a group -O- or -S- may be positioned between two adjacent groups, and two groups selected from R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> at adjacent C atoms may be replaced by a C-C bond; and wherein one of R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> may be combined with one of R<sup>1</sup> to R<sup>9</sup> to form a 5- to 7-membered ring structure; and m is 1, 2, 3, or 4;

Z is selected from Y<sub>3</sub>CO, Y<sub>2</sub>C=CR<sup>15</sup> and Y<sub>2</sub>C=N-O, where R<sup>15</sup> is H, C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl or halogen and the groups Y independently are optionally substituted C<sub>6-12</sub> aryl or optionally substituted C<sub>2-5</sub> heteroaryl having up to three heteroatoms selected from N, O and S, and the groups Y may be linked by a covalent bond or by groups between atoms belonging to different groups Y, said groups selected from -O-, -S-, -NH-, -O-, -CH=CH-, -CH=N-, -CH<sub>2</sub>- and -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-;

as well as the individual stereoisomers of these compounds.

2. Compounds according to claim 1, wherein R<sup>7</sup> is hydrogen and R<sup>1</sup> to R<sup>6</sup> are independently selected from optionally substituted C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl, halogen, OH, CN, optionally substituted phenyl and optionally substituted heteroaryl having 5 to 10 ring members and one or two heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, and in particular from hydrogen, C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl and phenyl.

3. Compounds according to any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein all of R<sup>1</sup> to R<sup>7</sup> represent hydrogen.

4. Compounds according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein A<sup>1</sup> is  $(-CR^8R^9-)_n$ , R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> being independently selected from H and C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl and being particularly hydrogen and n having a value of 0, 1 or 2, in particular of 1 or 2.

5. Compounds according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein X is COOM, with M = H, Na, K, NH<sub>4</sub>, Ca<sub>0.5</sub> or Mg<sub>0.5</sub>, and preferably H or Na.

6. Compounds according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein  $R^{10}$  and  $R^{11}$  are independently selected from H and  $C_{1-2}$  alkyl, and preferably are both H, and m is 2 or 3, in particular 2.

7. Compounds according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein Z is  $Y_2CO$  and the groups Y, which preferably are the same, are phenyl which optionally is substituted with one or two substituents, the substituents being selected from  $C_{1-3}$  alkoxy,  $C_{1-3}$  alkyl, halogen, OH,  $NO_2$ , CN and  $NR^{13}R^{14}$  and  $R^{13}$  and  $R^{14}$  are defined as in claim 1.

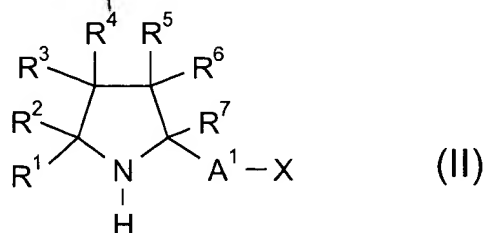
8. Compounds according to claim 7, wherein the phenyl radicals are mono- or disubstituted and the substituents are preferably selected from  $C_{1-2}$  alkoxy, in particular methoxy, and  $C_{1-2}$  alkyl, in particular methyl.

9. Compounds according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein Z is  $Y_2C=CR^{15}$  or  $Y_2C=N-O$ , the groups Y being preferably the same and representing optionally substituted phenyl or optionally substituted heteroaryl having 5 or 6 ring members and one or two heteroatoms selected from O, N and S and  $R^{15}$  is H or  $CH_3$ , preferably H.

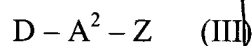
10. Compounds according to claim 9, wherein the radicals Y carry 0, 1 or 2 substituents, the substituents being selected from  $C_{1-3}$  alkyl,  $C_{1-3}$  alkoxy, halogen, OH,  $NO_2$ , CN and  $NR^{13}R^{14}$ , as defined in claim 1.

11. Compounds according to any one of claims 1 - 10, wherein the substituents Y are the same and are selected from phenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl and 3-methyl-2-thienyl.

12. Process for the preparation of a compound of general formula (I), according to claim 1, wherein a compound of general formula (II)



wherein  $R^1$  to  $R^7$ ,  $A^1$  and  $X$  are as defined in claim 1 is reacted with a compound of the general formula (III):



wherein  $A^2$  and  $Z$  are defined as in claim 1 and  $D$  represents a group which can react with the group  $N-H$  of the compound of general formula (II) to form  $HD$ , in particular halogen.

13. Pharmaceutical composition, comprising at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient and at least one compound of general formula (I) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 11.

14. Compounds according to any one of claims 1 to 11 for use in a method for the treatment of the human or animal body.

15. Use of the compounds according to any one of claims 1 to 11 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of diseases which can be ameliorated or cured by an amplification of the GABAergic neurotransmission.

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